

NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

RANDY G. MASSEY
ACTING UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

Nine Executive Drive, Fairview Heights, Illinois 62208, Telephone (618) 628-3700

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BENTON RESIDENT SENTENCED FOR ROLE IN METHAMPHETAMINE CONSPIRACY

Randy G. Massey, Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, today announced that **Daphne Braden**, age 35, of Benton, Illinois, was sentenced to 146 months imprisonment based upon her plea of guilty to one count of an indictment returned against her which alleged her involvement in a conspiracy to manufacture, distribute and possess with intent to distribute over 500 grams of a mixture and substance containing methamphetamine between November 2001 and May 2005, in Franklin and Williamson Counties. The sentencing took place in United States District Court at Benton, Illinois, on December 7, 2006.

According to the factual basis submitted to the court at the time of her plea, the defendant admitted to being involved in a conspiracy, primarily in Franklin County, Illinois, which involved making more than 15 kilograms of methamphetamine for use and distribution to other coconspirators. She was responsible for obtaining and then supplying pseudoephedrine pills which were then used by her coconspirators to manufacture methamphetamine. The investigation determined that she supplied pseudoephedrine pills on over 50 occasions to members of the conspiracy for use in manufacturing methamphetamine.

Investigation into the case was handled by the COMIT Drug Task Force, the Southern Illinois Enforcement Group, the Illinois State Police Methamphetamine Response Team, the Southern Illinois Drug Task Force; the Herrin, Crainville and Carterville, Police Departments; the Franklin, Williamson and Jackson County Sheriffs' Offices; and by the United States Drug Enforcement Administration.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Michael C. Carr.